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ABSTRACT

The question of whether a new eligibility ruling will prevent 78 student-athletes in Iowa from receiving athletic scholarships was assessed. Four surveys of Iowa high school principals evaluated the effect of eligibility rules based on grade point averages (GPA), standardized test scores, and high school core curriculum requirements. Attention was focused on how many male and female athletes would not have received athletic scholarship aid if the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) ruling, Bylaw 5-1-(j), was in effect in 1984. The criteria were: scoring 15 or better on the American College Testing (ACT) program examination or 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT); attaining a minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale; successfully completing a minimum of 3 years of English, 2 years of science, 2 years of social studies, 2 years of math, and 11 high school college preparatory courses. It was found that some males but no females would have been denied athletic scholarships because of their grade point averages and ACT or SAT scores. Both females and males would have been denied scholarships based on the courses they did not successfully complete. All of the athletes would have been eligible for scholarships based on the number of college preparation courses they completed. Findings for the questionnaire items are included. (SW)

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AN INVESTIGATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEASUREMENT OF ACADEMIC PREPARATION OF IOWA STUDENT-ATHLETES RECEIVING ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE FALL OF 1984

by

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Submitted to:

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Introduction

The purpose of this study was to investigate information concerning the measurement of academic preparation of Iowa student-athletes receiving athletic scholarships in the fall of 1984. The information gathered provides some evidence about the likely impact of eligibility rules regarding male and female student-athletes in Iowa. The eligibility rules investigated included grade point averages, standardized test scores, and core curriculum requirements in high schools.

The problem under consideration in this study specifically dealt with the question, "Will the 1983 NCAA eligibility ruling, scheduled to take effect in 1986, prevent male and female student-athletes in Iowa from receiving athletic scholarship aid?" As a result of the original question, four proportional inquiries were made in the form of a survey disseminated to high school principals in Iowa. The information gathered from this survey was analyzed in order to determine a possible answer to the primary question. The four proportional inquiries to be answered by this study are:

1. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 scored 15 or better on the ACT test or 700 on the SAT test?

2. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 attained a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale?

3. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 successfully completed a minimum of 3 years of English, 2 years of science, 2 years of social studies, and 2 years of math?

4. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 successfully completed a minimum of 11 high school college prep courses?

This study was limited to schools in Iowa which had male and female seniors in the graduating class of 1984 who received athletic scholarships in NCAA Division I schools. The author chose this particular class because it was the most recent class to graduate.

There were 446 original questionnaires mailed to Iowa high school principals. Of the 446 principals contracted, 94 percent responded. These responses resulted in a second questionnaire to 145 schools indicating male or female athletes in the graduating class of 1984 who had received athletic scholarship aid.

Summary

Four proportional questions were developed to assist in determining how many male and female athletes would not have received athletic scholarship aid in 1984 if the NCAA ruling, Bylaw 5-1-(j), was in effect in 1984. The findings to these questions are as follows:

Question 1. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 scored 15 or better on the ACT test or 700 on the SAT test?

This question was answered by analyzing the data of Table 1. Of the 78 total number of scholarships reported, 44 were given to males and 34 were issued to females. All 78 subjects reported using the ACT standardized test rather than the SAT test. The result provided showed that of the 78 subjects, 76 scored above the eligibility minimum of 15 on the ACT test. All the females scored above the minimum, and the 100 percent

female return yielded a mean score of 21.15. This compared to a male mean score of 18.81, with two scores below the 15 minimum indicating 95.5 percent of the males would have met the minimum NCAA requirement on testing. 97.5 of both male and female subjects would have qualified.

Question 2. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 attained a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale?

This question was answered by analyzing the data of Table 2. Of the 78 total number of scholarships reported, the 44 males represented in the study yielded a mean grade point average of 2.390 while the female grade point average mean score was 2.840. The results provided showed that of the 78 subjects, 76 scored above the eligibility minimum of 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. All of the females scored above the 2.0 grade point average. The female mean score was 2.840 while the male mean score yielded a 2.390. The proportion of males meeting the NCAA minimum grade point average of 2.0 was 95.5 percent while 100 percent of the females met the grade point requirement. 97.5 percent of both female and male subjects would have qualified.

Question 3. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 successfully completed a minimum of 3 years of English, 2 years of science, 2 years of social studies, and 2 years of math?

The courses successfully completed by the male and female subjects in this study are as follows:

Course	# Males Successfully Completing Minimum	Percent
English	44	100
Math	39	89
Social Studies	41	93
Science	39	89
Lab Science	24	55

Course	# Females Successfuly Completing Minimum	Percent
English	34	100
Math	34	100
Social Studies	34	100
Science	22	65
Lab Science	10	29

Question 4. What proportion of Iowa scholarship athletes in the graduating class of 1984 successfully completed a minimum of 11 high school prep courses?

All of the principals reported that all of their subjects in their schools completed a minimum of 11 high school prep courses.

Conclusions

The conclusions derived from this study are based upon the four research questions previously mentioned.

1. Based upon the proportional findings regarding Question 1, none of the females would be denied athletic scholarships because of their standardized test scores. Some male subjects in this study would be denied athletic scholarships based upon their standardized test score.

2. Based upon the proportional findings regarding Question 2, the

same proportions hold true for male and female subjects that would be effected by grade point averages as would be effected by standardized test scores. None of the female scholarships would be denied based upon grade point averages; however, some male subjects would be denied athletic scholarships based on their grade point averages.

3. Based upon the proportional findings regarding Question 3, both female and male subjects would be denied athletic scholarships based upon the courses they did not successfully complete.

4. Based upon the information gathered, all of the subjects in this study would be eligible for athletic scholarships based upon the number of college prep courses they completed.

Recommendations

Based upon the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Similar studies should be made before the implementation of Bylaw 5-1-(j).

2. A study should be considered which evaluates the accuracy of variables such as standardized test scores, grade point averages, curriculum requirements, and college preparatory courses.

3. Iowa schools should all have the same basic requirements rather than the current course offerings if curriculum is used to determine eligibility standards.

4. Establish minimum requirements for athletic scholarship aid based upon further research regarding the measurement criteria discussed in this document.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

SEX: 44 Males...34 Females...73 Total

RACE: Males...41 White...3 Black, Females...32 White...2 Black

GPA: Males...2.390, Females...2.340, Average...2.610

Students Below 2.000...Males 2, Females 0

ACT Score: Males...18.31, Females...21.15, Total Average...19.98

Students Below 15...Males 2, Females 0

Courses Successfully Completed by Male Student-Athletes:

Course	Years	Total
English	1( ) 2( ) 3(23) 4(21)	44
Math	1(5) 2(20) 3(19) 4( )	44
Social Studies	1(3) 2(36) 3(5) 4( )	44
Science	1(5) 2(35) 3(4) 4( )	44
Lab Science	1(12) 2(24) 3( ) 4( )	36

Courses Successfully Completed by Female Student-Athletes:

Course	Years	Total
English	1( ) 2( ) 3(15) 4(19)	34
Math	1( ) 2(30) 3(4) 4( )	34
Social Studies	1( ) 2(19) 3(15) 4( )	34
Science	1( ) 2(22) 3( ) 4( )	22
Lab Science	1(4) 2(6) 3( ) 4( )	10

ALL PRINCIPALS REPORTING INDICATED ALL OF THEIR ATHLETES LISTED IN THIS STUDY HAD COMPLETED AT LEAST 11 COLLEGE PREP COURSES.

Scholarship By Sport

	Males	Females
Football	16	0
Wrestling	14	0
Basketball	7	12
Track	5	8
Softball	0	6
Volleyball	0	6
Golf	2	2

TABLE 1

Response Rates to Questionnaires by Principals Reporting Scholarship Athletes in 1984

Questionnaire	Schools Contacted	Percent Responding
1	474	94
2	145	94

TABLE 2

Numbers of Freshman Recipients of Full or Partial Athletic Grant-in-Aid Included in the Study

	Men	Women	Total
Total Number of Freshman Student-Athletes Receiving Scholarship Aid Reported by Participating Principals	44	34	78

TABLE 3

Race, Sex, and Sport of 1984
Male and Female Student-Athletes Receiving
Full or Partial Scholarships

Sex	Sport	Race		Total
		Black	White	
Male	Football	1	15	16
	Wrestling	0	14	14
	Basketball	1	6	7
	Track	1	4	5
	Golf	0	2	2
Female	Basketball	1	11	12
	Track	1	7	8
	Softball	0	6	6
	Volleyball	0	6	6
	Golf	0	2	2
Total		5	73	78
Percentage		7	93	100

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